

Student Letters To Louise

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One of the great joys of being a Member of Congress is receiving letters from young people. Kids are honest and ask questions that too many adults are afraid to ask themselves. Here are just a couple of student letters that have brightened my day.

9/23/2004

Dear Representative Slaughter,

I am 9 years old and I go to Brooks Hill School in Fairport. I have 2 sisters and I am the oldest. I am writing because I want to know what it's like to be a representative. I also want to know what you do as a representative.

Sincerely,

Grace (Fairport, NY)

Dear Grace,

Thank you for writing to ask me about life as a Member of Congress. I especially enjoy hearing from my youngest constituents, and I appreciate you taking the time to send me a very thoughtful email.

I must tell you that it is a real privilege and an honor to be your Representative. For as long as I can remember, I have believed that the government can be a powerful source of good in people's lives. In fact, I was inspired to seek elective office after joining with my Fairport neighbors in an attempt to save Hart's Woods, a local forest, from development. The 28th New York Congressional District has trusted me for 18 years to be their voice in D.C. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously.

You asked a great question about what I do as a representative. For one, I travel around Upstate New York and get to meet a lot of different people. This allows me to know how my constituents are thinking about issues important in their lives. I also spend a lot of time in D.C., where I vote on pieces of legislation important to the 28th district, greet constituents who come down for a tour of the Capitol, and write legislation that I think will best serve my district and the country. It is an exciting job. I am always on the go and there is rarely a dull moment.

It is clear from your letter that you have a very bright future and I encourage you to try new things and work hard in school. I hope that as you get older, you consider what you can do to better your community and the lives of those

around you. Again, I really appreciate your email. Like you, I live in Fairport, so hopefully one day soon we will meet and I can tell you more about my activities in Congress. You might also check out my website at www.louise.house.gov. I have created a kid's page with links to more information and fun activities about our federal government.

I wish you all the best for a happy and productive year at Brooks Hill. Please tell your younger sisters that I hope they will write me soon, too!

Sincerely,

Louise

10/18/04

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter,

I love our new flag. I am a Standard Bearer so I get to put the flag up. The whole school always wants to hold the flag.

Only the Standard Bearer can hold the flag. Our old flag, the Blue and Red, was fading out. The edge of the flag is ripped. We are glad to have a new flag.

Sincerely,

Chaundrea

Chaundrea is a student at Frank Fowler Dow School #52 in Rochester. I was happy to donate a new flag to #52, and I am glad that Chaundrea and her classmates appreciate the beauty and the values that the American flag holds for our country.